Under Rural Housing component of Bharat Nirman, 60 lakh houses are proposed to be constructed for the rural poor in four years. Under rural drinking water supply component, 55,067 uncovered habitations to be covered by 2009. In addition, all habitations which have slipped back from full coverage to partial coverage due to failure of source and habitation which have water quality problem to be addressed.

Separate Board for chillies in Guntur

*239. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate Board for chillies in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, by hiving it off from the Spices Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some States and the Spices Board have opposed the move; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to allay their fears?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Government does not propose to set up a separate Board for chillies in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Displacement of farmers due to land acquisition

*240. SHRI. V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a notice from the National Human Rights Commission on the issue of land acquisition, displacement of farmers and the poor, relief being given to displaced victims;

(b) if so, the details of this notice;

(c) the organisation or person who represented the matter;

(d) what steps are proposed to carefully study the problem and come up with ways to avoid displacement of farmers and the dismal quantum of relief being given to them; and

(e) the measures proposed to address the issues raised by N.H.R.C?

THE MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission has forwarded a notice to this Ministry, received from Dr. Pentapati Pullarao, President, Forum on Social & Human Rights, Polavaram, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, alleging that 10 million people have been displaced in the last 3 years due to land acquisition and eviction of farmers using the Land Acquisition Act of 1894. The NHRC has asked this Ministry, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh to submit their comments on the issue.

(d) and (e) The issues raised in the said Notice are being examined, and this Ministry has sought a detailed report on the matter from all the State Governments and UT Administrations. Appropriate action shall be taken upon receipt of the reply from them.

Further, this Ministry is in the process of drafting a revised resettlement and rehabilitation policy, namely the National Rehabilitation Policy-2007 (NRP-2007), with the objective of minimizing displacement and promoting, as far as possible, non-displacing or least-displacing alternatives; ensuring adequate rehabilitation packages and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the affected persons. The draft is being finalized after wide-ranging consultations with and comments from the State Governments, the concerned Departments/ Ministries, and the public. This policy, once approved and adopted, would replace the current National Policy on Resettlement & Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families-2003 (NPRR-2003). Suitable amendments to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 are also under consideration to make the process time-bound and effective.